pregnable.

Our batteries, stationed at different and well-selected points,

opened upon the fortress early in the morning of the 12th of September, and kept up a well-directed and destructive fire through that day, and in the morning of the next until the forces were ready to move on to the attack. Preparations, evincing great military skill and judgment, were made for the assault on the morning of the 13th. Not only the strong citadel which crowned the hill was to be carried; but nume-forward on the 6th with a view to attack them. An action tected these works, were to be encountered and dispersed before that fortress could be reached. All intervening obstacles were swept away, and the castle carried by storm. To convey something like an adequate impression of this daring and heroic achievement, I avail myself of a quotation from the despatch of the General in chief command descriptive of the

closing scene:

"The broken acclivity was still to be ascended, and a strong redoubt midway to be carried before reaching the castle on the heights. The advance of our brave men, led by brave officers, though necessarily slow, was unwavering, over rocks, chasms, and mines, and under the hottest fire of cannon and musketry. The redoubt now yielded to resistless valor, and the shouts that followed announced to the castle the fate that impended. The enemy were steadily driven from shelter to shelter. The retreat allowed not time to fire a single mine without the certainty of blowing up friend and foe. Those who at a distance attempted to apply matches to the long trains were shot down by our men. There was death below as well as above ground. At length the ditch and wall of the main work were reached; the scaling ladders were brought up and planted by the storm-At length the ditch and wall of the main work were reached; the scaling ladders were brought up and planted by the storming parties; some of the daring spirits, first in the assault, were east down—killed or wounded. A lodgment was soon made; streams of heroes followed; all opposition was overcome, and several of our regimental colors flung out from the upper walls amidst long-continued shouts and cheers, which sent dismay into the capital."

Though the capture of Chapultepec was a most difficult an perilous enterprise, it was, however, but one in the series of brilliant achievements which were to be performed before the city of Mexico fell into our possession. A desperate struggle was continued throughout the whole day. The numerous batteries, which opened a destructive fire upon our troops, one after another, were captured; the formidable obstacles, so well contrived to arrest our advance, were surmounted; and th opposing hosts of the enemy were driven from their wellchosen positions. When night came and suspended the dread-ful conflict, two of our columns had entered the city. Pre-parations were at once made for its entire subjugation on the

approaching morning.

Our astonishing successes on the two preceding days had filled the army and the Government of Mexico with despair; they precipitately fled during the night of the 13th. On the 14th our troops took possession of the magnificent capital of the Mexican Republic, and planted the standard of the United States on her national palace.

The preceding sketch of the operations of our army, under

the command of Major General Scott, from its debarcation at Vera Cruz until its triumphal entry into the city of Mexico, is, I am well aware, exceedingly imperfect; it is confined to the announcement of general results; details and subordinate events developing heroic acts and individual merit are necessarily excluded; but these are presented with fulness in the admirable reports, herewith transmitted, of the highly distinguished officers who participated, in an eminent degree, in the memorable scenes they so well describe.

After the main body of our army had moved on the city of

Mexico, the small garrison at Puebla, under the command of Colonel Childs, sustained a close and continued siege for twenty-eight days, by a vastly superior force. The nu of assailants brought against this small garrison was at one time eight thousand, under the immediate command of General Santa Anna. The siege was signalized, through its whole course, by successive attacks at various points, successfully

The report of the commander of the garrison, herewith presented to your consideration, is another testimonial of the gallantry and the patient endurance of our officers and men, under the severest trials, which cannot fail to exalt the character of our army at home, and diffuse its renown wherever he-

roic deeds are justly appreciated.

After the Mexican army was so signally defeated and driven from the city of Mexico, General Santa Anna determined to try his fortune in another field. With a force of four thousand men and six pieces of artillery, he prepared for an attack on the train and troops which Brigadier General Lane was conducting to the headquarters of the army. Apprized of this design, and learning that the enemy was at Huamantia, Genane proceeded, on the 9th of October, with a considerable detachment, to attack him and disperse his troops. The encounter between this detachment and the enemy was brilliant; the conduct of our officers and men sustained the high mencement of the war. The enterprise was carried out with complete success; the force under General Santa Anna was of his cannon were captured, two of his aides-de-camp made prisoners, and the city of Huamantla

Being informed that a considerable force of the enemy was at Atlixco, under General Rea's command, General Lane resolved to strike at them. The execution of his design required a long and tedious march; it was performed in a highly creditable manner; the enemy was encountered, routed, and pursued to a considerable distance, with a loss of two hundred and nineteen killed, and three hundred wounded, and the city of Atlixco captured. For the details of these very suc cessful operations, and the instances of individual courage and listinguished conduct on the part of our officers and soldiers, I respectfully refer you to the reports of General Lane, here-

There have been also many severe conflicts between detachments of our troops and the guerilleros along the lines of our communications, almost invariably with results highly creditable to our arms. Those in which the small command of Major Lally was engaged in its arduous march from Vera Cruz to Jalapa were of a character which merits special notice. The formidable difficulties it met and overcame, at successive points in the route, attest the ability of the officers and the bravery of the troops composing this detachment. The par-ticular incidents of this march, and the creditable conduct of the officers and men, are presented in the accompanying re-

port of the commanding officer. The sketches I have presented of the operations of the two main columns of our army do not embrace an account of all the achievements in the enemy's country which have reflected lustre on our arms. As early as August, 1846, General Kearny informed the Department, in a letter from Santa Fe, that he should have a disposable force at that place, beyond what would be required to hold it, and to accompany him to California; and he proposed to send a detachment to Chihuahua to join General Wool, who was advancing upon that place. On the 23d of September, he ordered Colonel Doniphan, with the first regiment of Missouri volunteers, on that service. After being detained some time for the reduction of the Navajoe Indians-a restless and predatory tribe inhabiting the region of New Mexico, west of the range of mountains bordering the valley of the Rio Grande—Col. Doniphan proceeded on this expedition, attended with a large company of ly attacked, driven from their positions, and dispersed, with a American merchants. On the 25th of December, the advance of the command was met by the enemy in considerable force near Brazito, when an engagement took place, which resulted of nearly two hundred in killed and wounded, and on ours of only seven wounded. The force engaged in this affair on our side was less than five hundred, and on that of the enemy one thousand two hundred and twenty, of which over five hundred were cavalry. Pursuing its march, the command entered El Paso without further opposition. Here it was as-certained that the column under General Wool had been diverted from its original destination. It therefore became necessary for the detachment to remain at El Paso until reinforced by artillery, which had been previously ordered from Santa Fe. This accession of force did not join the command until early in February, and then it moved forward towards Chihushua. On its arrival at the Pass of the Sacramento, about fifteen miles from the capital of the State, on the 28th of February, the enemy was there discovered in great force, strongly posted on the commanding heights, fortified by enents, and well supplied with artillery. Arrangements were promptly made for an attack, and a fire at once opened from our batteries. The action soon became general, and lasted from 3 o'clock in the afternoon till near dark. All the enemy's redoubts were carried, and he was driven with great slaughter from the field, and completely dispersed. His arstauguter from the transparence and some culverins, was cap-tured; and his loss in killed and wounded was about six hundred, while ours did not exceed nine men. The numerical strength of the enemy in this engagement was over four thousand—twelve hundred cavalry, twelve hundred infantry, three hundred artillery, and over fourteen hundred rancheros— under the command of several officers of high rank and dis-tinction. Our entire force in the action was less than nine hundred. On the succeeding day our victorious troops enter-

weeks, proceeded to join the army under Major General Taylor at Monterey. aylor at Monterey.

This adventurous murch by Col. Doniphan and his small and gallant command, of more than one thousand miles through a hostile country, in the course of which two battles

ed the capital of Chihuahua, and, after remaining there some

traordinary natural strength, and its great importance as a defence to the city was well understood by the enemy, who had exhausted his skill and lavished his means to make it imcember he arrived at a settlement on the frontier of California. cember he arrived at a settlement on the frontier of California. While pursuing his march from that place he was met, two days thereafter, about forty miles from San Diego, by a small detachment of volunteers under Capt. Gillespie, sent out by Commodore Stockton to give intelligence of the enemy, who, to the number of six or seven hundred, were reported to be

rous outworks, obstructing every approach to it, were to be ensued and resulted in their deteat, with considerable loss in taken, and large bodies of the enemy, who manned and pro-

able to make good their retreat.

The next day the detachment proceeded on its march, and again encountered a hostile party occupying a hill near San Bernardo, and drove them from their position. Gen. Kearny remained with his command at this place until the 11th, when he was joined by a party of sailors and marines, sent out by Commodore Stockton, and then proceeded to San Diego. Here terminated a most arduous march of one thousand and forty-three miles, through a country never before traversed by an armed force, and beset with formidable difficulties, only to be surmounted by extraordinary energy and perseverance, and towards its close obstructed by an enemy who opposed a desperate resistance, which was overcome by severe and sanguinary conflicts. Our successes, so creditable to the heroic band who achieved them, were not obtained without the loss of three brave and accomplished officers and On the 29th of December a force of five hundred men.

consisting of dismounted dragoons, volunteers, marines, and sailors, moved from San Diego upon Ciudad de los Angeles, sailors, moved from San Diego upon Ciudad de los Angeles, the stronghold of the enemy, with a view to succor a party of Americans moving on the same point from Monterey. On the Sth of January this force reached the San Gabriel river, where it found the enemy full six hundred strong, with artillery, stationed on the heights which commanded the passage of the river, and determined to dispute it. A severe conflict ensued, which lasted an hour and a half, when the heights were carried, and the enemy defeated and driven from the field. The next day he was again met and routed on the plains of Misa.

Without further resistance the detachment moved forward, and the commanded the plains of Misa.

Without further resistance the detachment moved forward, and the commanded the plains of Misa. Without further resistance the detachment moved forward, and arrived on the 10th at Ciudad de los Angeles, and took

peaceable possession of the place.

The results of these engagements were so disastrous to the enemy that some of the leaders of the Californians a few days thereafter met Lieut. Colonel Fremont, who was in command of four hundred volunteers, near San Fernando, and entered into a capitulation with him, whereby the people under arms and in the field agreed to disperse and remain quiet and peaceable. Thus the serious disturbances which had arisen in California subsequent to the first occupation of the country by our forces were put down; and from that time to the latest period to which our information extends all was there tran-quil, and no serious apprehensions of further disturbance were

entertained.

Colonel-Mason was sent from the United States in November, 1846, to California, where he arrived in February. Gen. Kearny had permission to return home when the condition of affairs should no longer require his presence in that country. Pursuant to instructions from this Department, the command of our land forces in California and the charge of the temporary civil government there established were devolved on Col.

from the squadron and in part organized in the country. the transactions which have been detailed took place before any of the land forces sent from the United States, except the few dragoons who accompanied General Kearny, (not exceed-ing one hundred,) had arrived in California. The company of artillery which embarked at New York in July, 1846, did not reach that country until February, 1847, and the regiment of volunteers from New York, which sailed in September, arrived there in March.

er, arrived there in March.

A battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Cooke, from Santa Fe, arrived in California in January, 1847. This battation also proceeded by way of the Gila river, and, by deviating from the route taken by Gen. Kearny, found one more practicable, over which, though no wheel carriage of any description had ever before passed, they were enabled to take

a train of wagons.

About two hundred recruits have been sent out, within a few months past, to fill up the companies in the regiment of

hundred and fifty, exclusive of the battalion from Santa Fe, ed. The supplies in the vicinity of our posts would be withwhose term of service expired in July, and who were not exdrawn from our reach as soon as our design to seize and appresented in the accompanying report of the Quartermaster

are due to this unfortunate and meritorious class of our felwhose term of service expired in July, and who were not expected to re-engage. When the recruits shall have arrived the entire force in that country will be about one thousand.

drawn from our reach as soon as our design to seize and appropriate them was ascertained or suspected. But, were it denotes the entire force in that country will be about one thousand. These occupy seven posts, at a long distance from each other.

A detachment has been sent to garrison La Paz, the capital of
So far from deriving advantage from the line-policy, by way

are required in that country. Though all is now quiet there, and no serious apprehension is entertained of disturbance, yet the country in our occupation is extensive, embracing many positions which should be garrisoned, and the Indian race is ere numerous, with the propensity and habit of depredating. In case of a threatened disturbance, it is not doubted that a considerable augmentation of our force could be derived from the inhabitants of the country; still I think it advisable to increase the number of troops now there. To show the state

phan for Chihuahua an insurrection broke out in the northern part of New Mexico, which appeared to have for its object the American citizens at Taos. Similar atrocities were at the force for an attack upon Santa Fe. As soon as the commanding officer was informed of their designs, he took prompt mea-sures to intercept their march, to restore order throughout the territory, and to punish their leaders. Ordering in the detachments at the outposts, and leaving a sufficient garrison at Santa Fe, Col. Price, with three hundred and fifty men, including a company of horse and a battery of mountain howitzers, moved on the 23d of January, in the direction of Taos, and on the succeeding day discovered the enemy—about fifteen hundred—near the town of Cañada. They were immediately attacked, driven from their positions, and dispersed, with a retained, and no part surrendered but in compliance with treaty

loss of thirty-six killed and many wounded.

Pursuing the route up the left bank of the Rio Grande, our near Brazito, when an engagement took place, which resulted in the total defeat of the Mexicans, with a loss on their part ward to dislodge a party of the enemy—between six and seven hundred—who had possession of the heights which command-ed the defile leading to Enbudo. The heights were immediately attacked and carried, and the enemy precipitately driven in the direction of the town. Without further resistance, this detachment of our troops entered and took possession of

eighty men, under Captain Hendley, proceeded in the direction of Mora, to ascertain the strength of the enemy, reported to be in that vicinity. From three to five hundred Mexicans were discovered in a strong position behind defences within the town. Here a conflict took place, in which the enemy suffered a loss, in killed in wounded, of about thirty; but the defences were found too strong and too well guarded to be taken by escalade with so small a force. The party, after destroying some of the buildings in the town, retired with the prisoners to Vegas. Our loss in this affair was three slightly

In addition to the troops required to garrison places to be anded and one killed—the gallant commander of the party, who fell in storming the works

On the 3d of February, the command under Col. Price, On the 3d of February, the command under Col. Price, after a difficult march through deep snows, arrived at Pueblo de Taos, a place of considerable strength, surrounded by adobe walls and strong pickets, with buildings well calculated for desence and capable of holding a large garrison. Preparations fence and capable attack were made z our batteries opened upfence and capable of holding a large garrison. Preparations for an immediate attack were made; our batteries opened upon the town, and the fire continued during that and the following day; but, owing to the lightness of the metal, (a six pounder and mountain howitzers,) it was found impossible to make a breach in the walls. It was found impossible to make a breach in the walls. It was then determined to carry the place by assault, and it was done in a gallant manner. The next morning the insurgents sued for peace, which was granted on condition of surrendering up some of their principal leaders, who had instigated the disturbance and were directly concerned in the murder of the governor and others.

About one hundred and fifty, of the seven or eight hundred

was directed to be employed in establishing military posts on the route to Oregon, pursuant to the act of the 10th of May, 1846, and the remainder were ordered to Santa Fe to supply the place of the twelve months men whose term of service would expire in the summer. Afterwards this direction was so modified that the whole regiment was pressed on to Santa Fe, and a battalion of similar troops from the same State was Fe, and a battalion of establishing the Oregon posts.

will require an addition of about twere that the last men.

Attempts have been made, under the act passed at the last session of Congress, to engage volunteers to fill up the companies in service, and officers have been detached from their commands for that purpose. These efforts have not been successful; only eight hundred and twenty-one have been procured. One of the disadvantages attending these attempts to place them on the same

both on this side of the Rocky mountains. Instructions were given and the necessary arrangements made for a post near Grand Island, where the road to Oregon strikes the Platte river, and another at or near Fort Laramie. As the former was in the region where Indian depredations had been committed, and as a force there would hold the Indians in check, the earliest attention was directed to be given to that work, but the approach of winter has necessarily suspended it. Not much progress has been yet made in its construction beyond the collection of materials and the needful preparations for car-

rying it on early in the spring.

Our career of success, so disastrous to Mexico; our conquest of so many of her States and Territories; the subjugation and occupation of her capital; the defeat and dispersion of her armies; the capture of most of her materiel of war, and the annihilation of her foreign commerce, have not yet brought peace, or the offer of such terms as could be accepted by the United States without national degradation. The war still continues. and it is proper to present some suggestions in regard to its further prosecution. In making these suggestions I pass, with-out remark, the proposition that we should abandon all our acquisitions, and withdraw our troops from the enemy's coun-try. Such a proposition could only be seriously entertained if we were in reality the vanquished party, and were convinc-

occupied in advance of it, and cease from all aggressive operations beyond that line; second, to overrun the whole country, and hold all the principal places in it by permanent garrisons; and, third, to retain what we now possess, open the lines of communication into the interior, and extend our operations to other important places, as our means and the prospect of advantages shall indicate—keeping a disposable force almost a state within approach le limits to annow the enemy to ways ready, within approachable limits, to annoy the enemy, to seize supplies, enforce contributions, and frustrate his efforts to collect means and assemble troops for the purpose of protracting the war.

A full discussion of the comparative merits of these modes

of conducting our military operations, would extend this com-munication to an unwarrantable length; I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to a few prominent considerations relative.

and security—the only object of the war—the line-policy is re-garded as objectionable. If our present position cannot command acceptable terms of pacification from Mexico, retiring to an indemnity line would certainly fail to produce such a re sult; it would weaken the inducements of the enemy to put Mason about the first of last June, when General Kearny left for the United States.

The military operations in California, previous to the arri-The military operations in California, previous to the arrival of General Kearny, had been conducted by the officers of the navy and Lieut. Col. Fremont, by forces drawn in part All resources than he now possesses to prepare, at leisure and in security, to strike an effective blow with concentrated forces the at our detached posts. To hold these posts safely, to retain their pay, subsistence, and allowance for clothing have propossession of the seaports we now have, (if that should fall within the policy,) and to prevent incursions into the territories which we might choose to appropriate to ourselves, would, in my opinion, require a force as large as would suffice to maintain what we now occupy, and to carry our operations still further in the interior of the enemy's country, and make him feel the calamities of war in a way best calculated to induce

These considerations, without bringing into view others, have led me to look to one of the other modes of operation 1 have able extent be avoided in the manner suggested. mentioned as preferable to that of occupying an indemnity

the whole country—the wide extent of territory embraced in the public expenses on this account would be much diminish-To ensure the presence of that number in the enemy's countributions.) try, and at places where they would be wanted, it would be Though our forces have occupied the principal Mexican ports

extending to other important points, more or less numerous, as circumstances may warrant.

Notwithstanding our victories have fallen with crushing weight upon the assembled armies of Mexico, most of those who hold in their hands the decision of the question of peace have stood beyond the range of the physical evils inflicted by the war. By extending the theatre of it, and changing the mode of conducting it, they can be made to feel its pressure. In consequence of our liberal and humane policy, we have as Enbudo, and in a few days thereafter joined the main body at Trampas.

yet scarcely touched the substance of the wealthy and influential classes in Mexico. As the Mexican army has long been On the 24th of January a small reconnoitring party of about to them the instrument of oppression in the hands of their succession with the instrument of oppression in the hands of their succession rules are destruction has not deeply enlisted their sym cessive rulers, its destruction has not deeply enlisted their sym pathies or alarmed their fears. Our army has afforded them better protection than their own; and thus, by our presence forbearance, they have, within certain limits, hitherto escaped exactions from either. But our successes have now opened the way to act upon and influence those who probably can, if they will, put an end to hostilities. By making them suffer the usual calamities of war, they must be made to de-

> retained, it is proposed to have in the field a competent force for aggressive operations—to strike the enemy whenever he may present a vulnerable point; to open avenues from the ports in our possession into the enemy's country, and to cover and subject to our control some of his rich mining districts and productive agricultural regions. It is not deemed proper to

cepted to take their places, making the present force in New twenty thousand men. Most of the volunteer forces have Mexico about three thousand six hundred and thirty-four men, including a battalion for service in the Indian country on the on the 31st of March a call was made on the State of Missouri for a regiment of mounted volunteers, a part of which was directed to be employed in establishing military posts on

Pe, and a battalion of similar troops from the same state was assigned to the duty of establishing the Oregon posts.

Upon full consideration of the subject, it was determined to confine the operations of the year to two military stations—forming the operations of the year to two military stations—forming the operation as recruits for the regular army. As the volunteers engage for the same term as the confine the ten resiments, there can be no reason for not recruits for the ten regiments, there can be no reason for not holding out to them the same inducements to enter the public service. It is, therefore, respectfully recommended that Congress be asked to authorize a like bounty to volunteer recruits.

I also suggest that those raised in the same State be consolidated temporarily, and the supernumerary officers sent home to obtain recruits for their respective companies. Should this attempt prove unsuccessful, then I recommend that the consolidation be made permanent, and that entire companies of volunteers be accepted, to take the place of the vacancies in regiments and battalions which may be occasioned by the consolidation.

The forces now in service same term as the in relation to providing clothing that it can readily furnish a supply to the volunteers.

I also repeat the recommendations in my last report, in regard to a retired list of officers of the army, who, by age or infirmities, have become unable to perform active duties. The experience of the past year has added force to the considerations in favor of such a measure. For the details of the plan, as well as for reasons in favor of it, I invite your attention to the report of the Adjutant General.

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For the details of the plan, as well as for reasons in favor of it, I invite your attention to the report of the Adjutant General.

Besides the reports of the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General, before particularly referred to, I also here with submit for your consideration others from the Commission of the past year and the recommendations in my l

The forces now in service, augmented by recruits to the extent which it is reasonable to expect, will not, in my opin-ion, be sufficient for our contemplated military operations. I therefore submit for your consideration and approval the proposition to raise ten additional regiments of regular forces fo he war. It is important that authority should be given for this purpose at an early period in the approaching session of Congress. A delay, even of a few months, would be very injurious, as it would give time to the enemy to reorganize his shattered forces and recruit his exhausted strength. If his shattered forces and recruit his exhausted strength. such authority be at once given, the new regiments might be raised and sent to the seat of war in season to pass the unealthy district along the coast of the Gulf before the epidemic, and to participate in the next campaign. It is desirable that Congress should be impressed with the importance of providing at once for this increase of our troops.

The increase of the regular force to the proposed extent is much preferred to a further call for volunteers—not, however, because the former are preferable to the latter for courage, endurance, or gallant deeds of daring ; for, in these high attriregular troops and the volunteers have been alike eminently distinguished, and have, on every trying occasion, nobly contended for excellence : but, judging from past experience, it is believed that in this way the army can be more expeditiously reinforced, and the regiments more effectively recruited and kept up, and in some respects better adapted to the

services likely to be required of them.

The exigencies of the war may require a larger force than can be brought into the field, including the proposed new regiments. It is therefore urged that authority should also be given to accept the services of more volunteers. It should not pe restricted to a number less than twenty thousand. With the increase of our present force by the ten new regiments, it very favorable light; and I trust that, besides the appropriais not probable that there will be occasion to exercise this authority, yet an emergency may arise when a resort to it would will be made for an annual Board of Visiters.

fiscal year. Provision was made in these appropriations for continuing in service, besides the regular troops, ten thousand volunteers; but it was subsequently deemed important greatly to augment this volunteer force. The excess of volunteers called out beyond that number is over fifteen thousand, for which no appropriation was made. The expenses of organiduced a considerable part of these deficiencies. The unfore-seen and extraordinary rise in the price of articles of subsistence has also caused a much larger expenditure in the Com-missary's Department than was expected when the estimates for subsistence were presented to the last Congress. The largest amount of disbursements has been in the Quartermaster's Department. For a statement of this amount, as well as him to seek for peace. But if in this I am mistaken, and the line-policy should enable us to reduce the number of our troops, still it will not, as I conceive, thereby effect a reduction of our actual expenditures for the war.

To a statement of this amount, as wen as the necessity for it, I respectfully refer to the report of the Quartermaster General. The duties of that branch of the public service are numerous and difficult at all times—in war, tion of our actual expenditures for the war. tion of our actual expenditures for the war.

In consequence of the interruption of intercourse between the seaports in our possession, and the central parts of Mexico, the collections on imports have hitherto been inconsidera—

and particularly in a foreign war, carried on at a great discussion, the duties are taken from our ordinary sources of supplies, these duties are taken from our possession, and the central parts of Mexico, the collections on imports have hitherto been inconsidera—

and particularly in a foreign war, carried on at a great discussion.

I do not doubt, however much it is to be lamented, that many soldiers who have faithfully served their country in the which that department has labored from the commencement.

propriate them was ascertained or suspected. But, were it otherwise, as our posts would be remote from the wealth and resources of the country, the amount which could be obtained would be inconsiderable.

So far from deriving advantage from the line-policy, by way

Goldenia. As a measure for reducing expenses in one important to oncur in the acting Surgeon General's recommendation of such an establishment, and submit it to your favorable contents of the same time giving it greater efficiency, I invite special attention to his recommendation in regard to the mode of em-Under almost any circumstances this force can hardly be regarded as sufficient to answer the purpose for which troops fer upon a portion of the people of Mexico a direct benefit, by opening to them at our posts a market, in which we should places where they are wanted, has forced upon that departcome the purchasers of their products at an exorbitant price. | ment the necessity of paying extravagant wages, and in other

> If authority were given to enlist the men required in the Quartermaster's Department, with all the advantages to which In regard to the second mode suggested—that of occupying troops of the line are entitled and subject to similar obligations,

necessary to raise a much larger force. The great expense on the Gulf, the trade with them has been inconsiderable, beof raising, organizing, and sending to their remote destination so large a body of troops as soon as needed to give effect to this plan would, I apprehend, bring a very heavy and perhaps embarrassing demand upon the Treasury.

The third mode presented is, in my judgment, preferable to the others. Beyond certain limits it admits of expansion and contraction; but, as a fixed condition, all now held is to be retained, and no part surrendered but in compliance with treaty stipulations. This plan also contemplates further acquisitions, the plan also contemplates further acquisitions, as a fixed condition, all now held is to be retained, and no part surrendered but in compliance with treaty stipulations. This plan also contemplates further acquisitions, collections at these ports will be vastly augmented.

Cause the introduction of merchandise into the country has been almost entirely obstructed. The guerrilla bands have of this business.

Officers of the line and staff have been required to perform duties at several places where a destroying epidemic has prevailed. Several have fallen victims to it. Their position was as perilous as that of the officers who have mingled in open conflict with the enemy. The families of those who have been stricken down by this insidious for have in the cause of this business.

Officers of the line and staff have been required to perform duties at several places where a destroying epidemic has prevailed. Several have fallen victims to it. Their position was as perilous as that of the officers who have mingled in open conflict with the enemy. The families of those who have been stricken down by this insidious for have been required to perform duties at several places where a destroying epidemic has prevailed. Several have fallen victims to it. Their position was as perilous as that of the officers who have mingled in open conflict with the enemy. The families of those who have been required to perform duties at several places where a destroying epidemic has prevailled. Several have fal

formed at unhealthy places, where a destroying epidemic pre-vails during many months of the year. It seems to be but just that those thus employed and thus exposed should receive | that the pension law sho ports in collecting contributions, a per centage on the sums received, and that authority should be given to regulate the number and determine the pay of the several persons employ-ed in this business. There is no official information in this

A most important and difficult part of the duties devolved Department showing the amount of revenue or contributions upon this Department is the management of our Indian affairs. Our relations with the tribes are yearly extending, and,

made, and the amount applied towards the support of the civil government established in California.

The despatch of Cel. Mason, to which I have before alluded, refers to the unsettled claims in that country against the United States, and recommends that immediate measures should be taken to ascertain the amount of such as are well unded, and that provision be made for immediate payment. These claims are principally for property of various descriptions furnished to or taken by our forces in the course of the ces so permicious to their weil being, has been steadily purtions furnished to or taken by our forces in the course of the military operations in that country. The delay to pay them has already produced much dissatisfaction, and is prejudicial to the interests of the United States. Some of the officera engaged in this distant service have become personally responsible for debts contracted for the use and in the service of the United States; it is also due to them that provision should be made for paying these debts.

The ces so permicious to their weil being, has been steadily purticular to their weil being, has been steadily purticular to the interests of the Choctaws, but they have been, to a great extent, overcome, and arrangements are in progress which promise success to that undertaking. A very satisfactory account of the various measures which have been pursued to carry out this policy of removal, will be found in the Commissioner's report.

Two treaties will soon be laid before you which have been.

made for paying these debts.

The resolution of the 3d of March last, providing for the payment of expenses incurred by States and individuals in orpayment of expenses incurred by States and individuals in organizing, subsissing, and transporting volunteers previous to their being mustered and received into the service of the United States, had reference to such troops only as had been mustered before that period. Like claims of a subsequent date have been presented, which could not be paid for want of aumay prefer a northern location.

was won, I respectfully refer to the reports of the General in chief command, and of the distinguished General who more immediately participated in the action. Those who fell, and the loss on survived the glory of this day, are appropriately commended by the latter "to the respectful memory of their countrymen, and the rewards due to valor and conduct" so eminently conspicuous.

The battle of El Molino del Rey was the opening scene to the storming of the formidable increased. The participated in the detroiting of the formidable for the regular regiments will be the storming of the formidable for the regular regiments will be the triumphal entry of our army into the city of Mexico.

In the plan for the captur of the city the reduction of Chapt for the regular regiments was a daring and dangerous embraced as indispensable to its success. This was a daring and dangerous enterprise. It was a place of extraordinary natural strength, and its great importance as a de-inference of the enemy, and the reports of the defined a parallel in the history of military to the edicion. Those who fell, and the loss on the part of the enemy, and the reports of the defined a parallel in the history of military the commendation of the last summer, some the leaders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had consider the edition to delete the regiments of the commendation of Congress are eleven the leaders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the leaders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in this scheme for a general massacre, who had create the eleders in the leaders in the lea

I respectfully repeat the recommendation in my last annual report on the subject of clothing in kind for volunteers, in lieu of the money which is at present paid to them as a commutation. The experience of the past year has shown the necessity for this change. The clothing provided by the volunteers themselves, both in kind and quality, is generally unsuited for the service, and often proves to be deficient in quantity. Serving in an enemy's country, and at a distance for the service. ing in an enemy's country, and at a distance from the ordinary sources of supply, it can seldom be replaced when lost or worn out, and always at an exhorbitant price. Much of the suffering which has been experienced by these troops may be attri-bated to the want of proper clothing. If authority were given to supply the volunteers in the manner provided for the regu-lar troops, it is believed they would be better clothed, and at a less cost to themselves and to the Government, than by the present mode. It is understood that, if such provision is made, the arrangements of the Quartermaster's Department are such

with submit for your consideration others from the Commis-sary General, the Paymaster General, the Chief Engineer, the Chief of the Topographical Engineers, the officer in charge of the Ordnance Department, the Surgeon General,

for this purpose, but little progress during the last year has been made in these works. In preceding years, the system of defence has been prosecuted with considerable success. Im-portant points have been placed in comparative security; but there are others, having strong claims to protection, that yet remain in a defenceless state. It is not deemed wise, under present circumstances, to withdraw all attention from our system of exterior defence.

The estimate which has been submitted for expenditure

upon those works is moderate. It is below that of last year, and much less than the average grants in former years.

Congress having provided for a Board of Visiters to attend

the general examination of the Military Academy at West Point, a number of eminent citizens from various States were invited to form such board, with a view to inquire into the state of discipline of that institution, its instruction, police, administration, financial affairs, and other concerns, and to report thereon for the information of Congress. Their report will be found among the papers herewith, from the Engineer Department. It presents the institution, in all respects, in a

thority, yet an emergency may arise when a resort to it would be of great importance to the public interest.

The Department has presented estimates for considerable deficiencies in some of the war appropriations for the current faced way.

Provision was made in these convergitions for the current again submit with appropriate the proposition of the Chief Feed way. The company of engineer soldiers, authorized by the act of Congress of May 15, 1846, has been more than a year on again submit, with approval, the proposition of the Chief En-

dical staff of the army, are all required for the troops in the field, and it is ascertained by experience that they are scarcely sufficient for the exigencies of the service. The wants of the service have rendered it necessary to employ physicians in civil life to assist in the duties of the medical staff. This deficiency of medical assistance has been owing in part to the number of surgeons and assistants who have been detached

From the Lima New Era of November 8. from the troops to take charge of the several hospitals which the proper care and treatment of the sick and wounded have rendered indispensable. Ample provision for the cure and comfort of the officers and soldiers, suffering by wounds or disease, is demanded by justice and bomanity. I therefore earnestly commend to your approval the proposition for authority to appoint six hospital surgeons, to be continued in office only to the end of the present war.

I do not doubt, however much it is to be lamented, that many soldiers who have faithfully served their country in the

The ship of the line Column

About two hundred recruits have been sent out, within a few months past, to fill up the companies in the regiment of volunteers in California.

By the last report, dated 18th June, from Colonel Mason, now chief in command of the military force in California, and exercising the functions of temporary civil governor there, it appears that the troops in that country do not exceed seven appears that the troops in that country do not exceed seven and consideration in the regiment of the line-policy is adopted, this intercourse will considerate the first that department has fabored from the commencement of the man unpresent that the temporary civil governor there, it appears that the troops in that country do not exceed seven appears that the troops in that country do not exceed seven and land in our wide-spread operations, and appears that the troops in that country do not exceed seven the commencement of the three commencement of the man unpresent the three commencement of the three commencement of the three commencement of the three commencement of the three commencement and unpresent the three commencement of the man unpresent the terms of the bits intercourse will consider the commencement of the troops in the commencement of the war, suddenly and the commencement of the three commencement of the man unpresent the terms of the war, suddenly and the commencement of the man unpresent the permanent of Com. Bidden the commencement of the war, suddenly and the commencement of the man unpresent the terms of the war, suddenly and the commencement of the man unpresent the terms of the war, suddenly and the commencement of the man unpresent the permanent of Com. Bidden the commencement of the wars suddenly and the commencement of the wars suddenly and the commencement o asylum or retreat. The comforts of such a public institution low-citizens from a grateful and paternal Government.

Pension Office is twenty-three thousand and nineteen; the number paid during the half year ending on the 1st of July last was only fifteen thousand and ninety-two. The office has not the means of ascertaining the deaths among them, but the number of pensioners has been by that cause considerably reduced during the last year. The reduction in that period is estimated to be at least ten per centum.

The law allowing a bounty in lands to the soldiers who have served in the war with Mexico, has thrown a pressure of duties upon the Pension Office, requiring a large of labor. In order to furnish these soldiers with scrip and increase the number of troops now there. To show the state of things in California, in regard to military affairs, as well as to other matters to which I shall hereafter allude, I herewith transmit the last communication received from Colonel Mason.

Soon after the departure of the expedition under Col. Doniphan for Chihuahua an insurrection broke out in the northern part of Now Maries which assessed to have been contributions which may be there obtained. From these venience to the meritorious claimants; and, even with this phan for Chihuahua an insurrection broke out in the northern part of New Mexico, which appeared to have for its object the part of New Mexico, which appeared to have for its object their being in the public service, and such of the Mexicans, as had being in the public service, and such office under the government established by our military authority. The first act of outrage was the deliberate and brûtal murder of the governor of the territory, and several other brûtal murder of the governor of the territory, and several other and the public services and the territory and several other the part of New Mexico, which appeared to have for its object the part of New Mexico, which appeared to have for its object the supplies winch may be there obtained. From these sources it is reasonable to expect such assistance as will light-session of the war, but there are no means of the burdens of bands which would obstruct them, and to suppress the more can ports garrisoned by our troops, are hereto annexed. The nine hundred and ninety of scrip, had been issued. Two same time perpetrated at the Arroya Honda and the Rio Colorado. Flushed with the success of their first sudden movement, the insurgents proceeded to collect and organize their life full effect this plan at less than seventy thousand men. in remained to be examined.

It is respectfully urged that a recommendation should be submitted to Congress to make provision, not only to pay those who have already rendered service, but for such an adof raising, organizing, and sending to their remote destination cause the introduction of merchandise into the country has ditional number of clerks as may be required for the dispatch

collections at these ports will be eastly augmented.

The business of collecting the contributions has been necessarily devolved on military officers. This duty has been per-

same provision for them.

I fully concur in the suggestion of the Adjutant General be so modified as to place the additional compensation; but, under the restriction of existing laws, there is no authority to sanction their claim to an army on the same favorable footing as those of the volunteers. extra allowance. I respectfully recommend that Congress should be asked to allow to officers engaged at the Mexican policy, the distinction should be obliterated, and the liberal policy, the distinction should be obliterated, and the liberal policy, the distinction should be obliterated.

Pacific: but it is understood that collections have there been made, and the amount applied towards the support of the civil a full account of our relations and transactions with them during the past year, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The wise policy of separating the Indians residing in States

and organized Territories, from contiguity to and interming-ling with the white population, and of settling them in a quiet home, removed as far as practicable from the reach of influences so pernicious to their well being, has been steadily pu

negotiated with different bands of the Chippewas of the Upper Mississippi and Lake Superior, for a portion of their lands west of that river. A part of this large tract is intended for

The Sioux and the Chippewas have long been enemies, and hostile collisions between them are of frequent occurrence. By interposing, as is now proposed, other tribes between them, their long-cherished feuds, it is hoped, will subside, and that region of country cease to be any longer the theatre of fre-

quent Indian disturbances.

Among those tribes with which we have treaties, or near which our agents reside, tranquillity has generally prevailed. The only exceptions known are the outrages committed by parties of the Sioux—one upon the Winnebagoes, which, by our interference, was amicably adjusted; and the others upon the Omahas, the Ottoes, and the friendly Pawnees. Proper measures have been taken to punish the aggressors, and to

The depredations upon the trains on the Santa Fe route have been, it is believed, committed principally, if not entirely, by Indians with whom we have hitherto had but little or no intercourse, and who can, therefore, only be controlled, and their mischievous propensities repressed, by a military force. For this purpose, such a force has been sent into that region, with instructions to chastise the offenders, and procure, as far as practicable, the restoration of the plundered

property.

The anomalous condition of our relations with the Indians in Texas embarrasses the action of the Department in relation to them. The laws regulating intercourse with Indian tribes do not extend over Texas. A special agent was, however, appointed at the close of the last session of Congress to visit appointed at the close of the last session of Congress to visit the several bands in that State, to counsel with them, and to distribute such presents, in goods, as were deemed most useful and best calculated to conciliate their good-will, and to inspire confidence in the friendly disposition of the United States towards them. This proceeding has been attended with success; but it is desired that Congress, at the approaching session, should place our relations with these Indians on a nore permanent basis.

A difficulty has arisen among the Stockbridge Indians in

Wisconsin, occasioned, principally, by the legislation of Congress, which cannot be overcome without further legislation. The necessity for the further action of Congress on the sub-

The necessity for the further action of Congress on the sub-ject is clearly presented in the Commissioner's report.

It will be perceived by that report that very special attention has been given, during the past year, to the important subject of education among the Indians. Additional schools on the new system—combining manual labor with rudimental in-struction—have been established, and arrangements made for others among several of the tribes. To extend this system the Chief of the Topographical Engineers, the officer in charge of the Ordnance Department, the Surgeon General, the Commissioner of Pensions, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. These several reports are presented in the fullest confidence that their examination will afford most gratifying proofs that the public duties devolved upon each, though unusually arduous, have been, throughout the past year, faithfully and ably discharged.

The report of the Chief Engineer exhibits the condition of the permanent defences, under construction and repair, along our seaboard and northern frontier. Owing to the small amount of means placed within the control of the Department for this purpose, but little progress during the last year, has a supplying the funds provided for education is deemeducation among the Indians. Additional schools on the new system—combining manual labor with rudimental instruction—have been established, and arrangements made for others among several of the tribes. To extend this system as far as practicable, it has been found necessary to employ all the funds at the disposal of the Department, some portion of which has been heretofore applied to educate a few dopted for applying the funds provided for education is deemed different seminaries in the States. The mode now adopted for applying the funds provided for education is deemed altogether preferable, and promises the most highly beneficial results.

For information in regard to many other important con-

For information in regard to many other important concerns and interesting matters connected with our Indian rela-tions—too numerous for even a brief notice in this communication-I respectfully invite your attention to the Con sioner's report.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedien servant,

W. L. MARCY, Secretary of War. To the PRESIDENT.

FROM THE PACIFIC.

The New York Herald has late Valparaiso and Lima newspapers, from which are made the annexed extracts. There has been a terrible earthquake in Chili and Peru, destroying several towns, which occurred on the same day as that which destroyed the town of Ocotlan, in Mexico.

From the Valparaiso Neighbor of October 26. On the 8th instant an earthquake occurred here at 11 o'clock

in the morning. Its duration was forty-five seconds in the port, though in Almendral it was more violent and protracted. The vibrations of the tower of the custom-house were perceived with fearful distinctness. The walls of some buildings

The shock at Illapel was more violent than it was in this place. Six or eight houses were thrown down, and one life lost. In Santiago the shock was more powerful than in Valparaiso. Here a whole region of country, of ten thousand square miles, was made to quiver like the leaf of a tree, and that on an instant; for the time, so far as it can be ascertain-

From the Lima New Era of November 8. We learn the almost total destruction of La Ligua and Petorca. The direction of the earthquake was evidently from the north. Coquimbo suffered extremely; its best public buildings were reduced to a mass of ruins. The oscillations of the earth were frightful. The whole population slept in the open field; even the stones in the rivers were raised from

The ship of the line Columbus, Capt. WYMAN, bearing the pennant of Com. BIDDLE, was at Val-paraiso on the 26th October, lately from Califor-

dent in Chili, returns in her, as does also E. R. Dorr, Esq., formerly American Consul for the city of Valparaiso?

FROM CALIFORNIA.

We have been favored with a number of the California Star, published at San Francisco, of September 18th.

The U. S. men-of-war Congress and Portsmouth, with others not named, left Monterey during the week ending September 11. bound to Mazatlan. The Malek Adbel, captured by the U. S. sloop-of-war War-

en, on the southern coast, was sold at auction, for the coast trade, to Capt. W. D. Phelps, for \$4,525. The weather at San Francisco was intolerably warm, the

nercury ranging in the neighborhood of 92° in the shade. The people of San Francisco elected a Town Council to dminister their affairs, consisting of Wm. Glover, Wm. D. M. Howard, Wm. A. Leidesdorff, E. P. Jones, Robert A. Parker, and Wm. S. Clark, who entered upon their official duties September 16th. At the first meeting Mr. Leidesdorff was appointed Town Treasurer, and required to give bonds in \$10,000. They also passed an ordinance imposing a penalty of six months' labor on the public works for desertion of seamen; and for enticing sailors from ships, or aiding them to

desert, a fine not exceeding \$500, and imprisonment not exbeeding three months. Col. Mason, Governor of California, has also proclaimed

a like penalty for the same offence. We make the following extracts from the California Star Mr. S. Brannan, publisher of this paper, after an absence

of nearly six months, arrived at this place on Friday morning last, in twenty-eight days from Fort Hall. By him we learn that the emigration to this country this

ear will not exceed ninety wagons.

The backward wagons, without brisk travel, may find their ountain road obstructed by the snows. Fear is already en-Mr. Brannan informs us that the emigration to Oregon was

mil. Brainad informs to the 18th day of August seven undered and seventy wagons had passed Fort Hall, and before the expiration of the month many more were expected. [Journal of Commerce

A WAR MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Philadelphia News of yesterday says that the great Democratic War Meeting took place in that city on Saturday evening last, "after furious flourishes of trumpets and highounding declarations continued during a whole week. There were to have been honorable Senators from Washington to lend dignity and impressiveness to it, and the demonstration was to be in all things a tremendous, awe-striking, and Whig-annihilating affair. We really thought there was some danger, so great was the effort. But our relief was intense when, on entering the Chinese Saloon, we found that it was not full, and that, notwithstanding a band was playing very loudly, its strains were not inviting enough to passers-by.

THE FLOOD AT THE WEST.

The western papers are filled with accounts of the disas rous effects produced by the recent severe freshet in the West-The Scioto river overflowed its banks, washing away the

turnpike, bridges, culverts, &c. On this, as well as on the smaller streams emptying into it, vast amounts of hogs and urnpike, bridges, culverts, &c. On this, as well

other stock have been washed away.

The destruction of property along the Ohio river is represented as appalling. In the towns of Guyandotte, Point Pleasant, Pomeroy, Hockingport, Parkersburg, Point Har-mar, Marietta, and Sun Fish, many families were compelled to leave their dwellings, and others removed to the

Most of the islands between Kanawha and Wheeling were entirely covered with water, which carried off fences, corn,

wood, and property of all kinds. All the people residing in the low lands had to abandon their dwellings and take refuge on the hills, leaving their property to the mercy of the water, being satisfied to escape with their lives.